

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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TO AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, IWC, SZ

SUBJECT: MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

REFERENCE: BERN 3707

1. ALTHOUGH THE 1931 CONVENTION HAS BEEN LARGELY REPLACED BY THE 1946 CONVENTION, WHICH SET UP AND GOVERNS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION, IT CONTINUES TO GOVERN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES WHERE THE 1946 CONVENTION IS NOT APPLICABLE, AS WHEN BOTH STATES ARE PARTIES TO THE 1931 CONVENTION BUT ONE OR BOTH ARE NOT PARTIES TO THE 1946 CONVENTION. AS OF JANUARY 1, 1977, THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERED 48 STATES TO BE PARTIES TO 1931 CONVENTION,
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16 TO 1946 CONVENTION, 10 TO BOTH.

2. OF THE 4 COUNTRIES LISTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTTEL, ONLY PORTUGAL, WHICH CATCHES WHALES IN THE ATLANTIC, HAS BEEN APPROACHED TO JOIN IWC. IT IS REPORTEDLY STUDYING THE PROBLEM. ITALY, IRELAND, AND AUSTRIA HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED, BUT USG WOULD BE WILLING TO APPROACH ANY COUNTRIES

INTERESTED IN WHALE CONSERVATION ON BEHALF OF IWC..

3. JAPAN AND THE USSR, THE TWO PRINCIPAL WHALING NATIONS OF IWC, TAKE SOME 85 OF THE WHALES CAUGHT IN THE WORLD. EVEN SO, BOTH HAVE ENDORSED THE CONSERVATION MEASURES OF THE IWC'S NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE, AND SINCE ITS ADOPTION IN 1975 THEY HAVE ABIDED FULLY BY IWC QUOTAS AND REGULATIONS.

4. IWC IS PLANNING TO HOLD A SPECIAL PREPARATORY MEETING PROBABLY IN DENMARK, IN SPRING 1978 TO DISCUSS REVISION AND STRENGTHENING OF IWC 1946 CONVENTION, LOOKING TOWARD A SUBSEQUENT CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES TO CONDUCT THE FORMAL RENEGOTIATION. PRESENT PLANS PROVIDE FOR ATTENDANCE AT THIS PREPARATORY MEETING BY INTERESTED NON-IWC-MEMBER COUNTRIES. SWITZERLAND MAY WISH TO CONSIDER ATTENDING AS AN OBSERVER. NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF IWC WILL BE HELD IN LONDON IN JUNE 1978. NON-MEMBER NATION OBSERVERS AS USUAL WILL ATTEND--WHICH OPPORTUNITY MAY ALSO INTEREST SWISS.

5. IWC CHAIRMAN ARTHUR BOLLEN (AUSTRALIA) AND IWC SECRETARY RAY GAMBELL (UK) ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION TECHNICAL SESSION IN OCTOBER IN GENEVA, WHERE DR. KAMER MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT THEM INFORMALLY. FYI: IN ADDITION, US DELEGATION MAY INCLUDE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERS OF U.S. IWC DELEGATION, WHO COULD ALSO DISCUSS IWC MATTERS WITH DR. KAMER. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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